

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for providing conditional access to the source code of a program, comprising:

generating encrypted source code of a program;

generating a software key to decrypt said encrypted source code;

providing said encrypted source code to a recipient; and

providing said software key to an escrow holder who is under instructions to provide said software key to said recipient upon satisfaction of a release condition.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said software key is randomly generated while generating said encrypted source code.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising generating binary executable code of said program, and providing said encrypted source code and said binary executable code of said program to said recipient.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said providing of said encrypted source code and said binary executable code to said recipient is performed over the Internet using file transfer protocol.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein said providing of said software key to said escrow holder includes transferring information of said software key along with an identification of said recipient to said escrow holder.

6. The method according to claim 4, wherein said providing of said software key to said escrow holder includes emailing said software key to said escrow holder.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said providing of said software key to said escrow holder further includes emailing information identifying said recipient along with said software key to said escrow holder.

8. The method according to claim 3, further comprising writing said encrypted source code and said binary executable code on a computer readable medium, and said providing of said encrypted source code and said binary executable code to said recipient is performed by providing said computer readable medium to said recipient.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said providing of said software key to said escrow holder includes transferring information of said software key along with information identifying said recipient to said escrow holder.

10. An apparatus for providing conditional access to the source code of a program, comprising a computer that

is programmed to generate encrypted source code of the program, generate a software key to decrypt said encrypted source code, provide said encrypted source code to a recipient, and provide said software key to an escrow holder who is under instructions to provide said software key to said recipient upon satisfaction of a release condition.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said computer is further instructed to electronically transfer said encrypted source code along with binary executable code of said program to said recipient.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said computer is further instructed to electronically transfer said software key along with information identifying said recipient to said escrow holder.

13. An apparatus for providing conditional access to the source code of a program, comprising a computer that is programmed to generate encrypted source code of the program, generate a software key to decrypt said encrypted source code, facilitate providing said encrypted source code to a recipient, and facilitate providing of said software key to an escrow holder who is under instructions to provide said software key to said recipient upon satisfaction of a release condition.

14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said computer is further instructed to write binary executable code of said program and said encrypted source code on a computer readable medium to facilitate providing

said binary executable code and said encrypted source code to said recipient.

15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said computer is further instructed to store said software key and information identifying said recipient in a file to facilitate providing said software key and said information identifying said recipient to said escrow holder.

16. A method for providing conditional access to the source code of a program, comprising:

receiving source code of a program, and
information identifying a recipient;

generating encrypted source code from said source
code;

generating a software key to decrypt said
encrypted source code; and

creating a record including said software key and
said information identifying said recipient.

17. The method according to claim 16, further
comprising providing said encrypted source code to said
recipient.

18. The method according to claim 16, further
comprising:

generating binary executable code from said source
code; and

providing said binary executable code and said encrypted source code to said recipient.

19. The method according to claim 16, further comprising receiving information identifying an escrow agreement having release conditions, and said created record further includes said information identifying said escrow agreement.

20. The method according to claim 19, further comprising providing said software key to said recipient upon satisfaction of one of said release conditions.

21. An apparatus for providing conditional access to the source code of a program, comprising a computer that is programmed to receiving source code of a program, and information identifying a recipient; generate encrypted source code from said source code; generate a software key to decrypt said encrypted source code; and create a record including said software key and said information identifying said recipient.

22. The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said computer is further instructed to provide said encrypted source code to said recipient.

23. The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said computer is further programmed to generate binary executable code from said source code, and provide said

binary executable code and said encrypted source code to said recipient.

24. The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said computer is further programmed to receive information identifying an escrow agreement having release conditions, and create said record so as to further include said information identifying said escrow agreement.

25. The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said computer is employed to provide said software key to said recipient after one of said release conditions has been satisfied.